

HEALTH
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SWAFFHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER,
1948.

Medical Officer of Health...C.W. Orr, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (EDIN),
(from 16.7.48 to 31.12.48). L.R.F.P., L.R.F.P.S., (GLAS)
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector... C. McD. O'Donnell, M.B.E. A.R.S.I.
(from 19.7.48 to 31.12.48). M.S.I.A.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances, health and vital statistics of your District throughout the year 1948.

The Report is an Ordinary Report, and is written in conformity with the suggestions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular No.3/49 dated 17th. January, 1949, dealing with Annual Reports.

The year under review is important, in that, the National Health Service Act came into force on the 5th. July. The only change of importance affecting this Area is that on this date, the administration for the carrying out of Immunisation and Vaccination was passed to the Local Health Authority - the Norfolk County Council. No action has been taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

The year has been a satisfactory one in many respects, the death rate in the District is lower than the National Rate. There were no deaths in children under one year of age and no case of puerperal infection was notified. This very satisfactory state is in no small measure due to the excellent work carried out by the District Nurse/Midwife.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was within normal limits but was an increase on the previous year.

I should like to record here my appreciation for the valuable assistance and guidance which I received from your late Clerk who's death at such an early age was so tragic. I should also like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Council for their support and encouragement during the year. In conclusion I would also thank the Sanitary Inspector for his loyal co-operation and help.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area.....	7592 acres
Resident Population.....	2822
Number of Inhabited houses.....	1310
Rateable Value.....	£12,452
Product of Penny Rate.....	£47

Swaffham is a Market Town the centre of a large agricultural district upon which it chiefly relies. The only industry of any note is a Canning Factory.

Transport facilities are supplied by the L. & N.E. Railway Company, the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company and local bus services.

The town is supplied with water, gas and electricity by Statutory Companies.

The Council own a Cemetery and Recreation Ground and maintain the usual municipal services.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate.	43	18	25
Illegitimate.	2	1	1
	<u>45</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population - 15.9.

<u>Stillbirths.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate.	-	-	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Rate per 1,000 of the population - Nil.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>

Death rate per 1,000 of the population:-

Natural increase of population (excess of births over deaths) - 17.99.

Death from puerperal causes:-

Rate per 1,000 total births.

Puerperal Sepis Nil.

Other puerperal causes. Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate.	Nil	Nil	Nil

Infant Mortality Rates (Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 live births) -

Legitimate only -

Illegitimate only -

General -

The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 34.

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

No. of Deaths

Measles	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Influenza	1
Diarrohoea (under 2 years)	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1
Tuberculosis (other forms)	-
Infantile Paralysis	-
Cancer (all ages)	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Water supplied by the Swaffham Waterworks Co. Ltd. and is chlorinated at its sources. The limit of the supply is within a radius of 1,500 yards from the Market Cross.

During the year the Canning Factory increased its output to such an extent that a new 4" main was led from the works direct to the factory. Immediately following this, a number of complaints were received of lack of pressure in the supply of private houses. The position seems to have righted itself somewhat, though the pressure is still not excessive.

Three cottages previously supplied by well water were connected to the town main.

Drainage & Sewerage

A combined system of Sewerage exists in the Council's area.

During the year a Consulting Engineer was instructed to investigate proposals for a new Disposal Works and a scheme for the construction of a new works near the site of the old one at a cost of something in the region of 38,000 is at present being investigated by the Council.

Closet Accommodation

During the year 4 pail closets were converted to water closets and connected to the sewer. Some pail closets were inspected and it is felt that at least 75% of these could be converted to water borne system with little cost and I consider this should be put in hand immediately the new Sewage Disposal Works has been constructed.

Public Cleansing

The collection of household refuse continued as in previous years until the latter part of the year when the system was converted from horse drawn to mechanical which is working satisfactorily and shows a considerable reduction in cost of collection. The amount of salvage collected has shown a considerable increase over last year,

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A summary of the work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department is tabulated below:-

Inspections.

Drainage	37
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.	23
Slaughterhouses and Butchers' shops.	
Food Shops	8
Cowsheds, Dairies etc.	5
Restaurants	9
Verminous and filthy premises	1

Contd.Inspections

Housing	25
Nuisances	5
Infectious Diseases	
Rates & Mice	10
Refuse Collection	
Waterworks	6
Schools	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
Milk Supply

The whole of the registered premises were inspected during the year and instructions given to limewhite etc. when necessary.

A Pastuerising Plant of the Holder type was installed at the Limes Dairy and after samples of the milk had satisfied the Phosphatase and Methelene Blue Tests a licence to use the special designation Pastuerised was granted. There is one T.T. Producer and one accredited producer in the district.

Meat and Other Foods

Shops and Slaughterhouses have been regularly inspected and usually found to be clean and tidy.

	<u>CARCASES INSPECTED & CONDEMNED</u>		
	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Approximate number killed	417	949	123
Approximate number inspected	417	949	60
<u>All diseases except</u>			
<u>Tuberculosis</u>			
Whole carcases condemned	8	20	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	104	40	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	26½	6%	12%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>			
Whole carcases condemned	16	nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	154	nil	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	41%	nil	15%

The following table compares various Rates in this area with those of England and Wales and selected groups of towns for the year 1948.

	Rate per 1,000 population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
	Live Births	Stillbirths.		
England and Wales.	17.9	0.42	10.8	0.00
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	20.0	0.52	11.6	0.00
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	19.2	0.43	10.7	0.00
London Administrative County	20.1	0.39	11.6	0.00
Swaffham U.D.	15.9	-	9.9	-
			-	-
			0.35	0.35
			-	-
			0.32	-
			-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1948

	Male	Female
All Causes	19	9
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
8. Syphilitic diseases	-	-
9. Influenza	-	1
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity, cesophagus(M) and uterus(F)	-	-
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
15. Cancer of breast	-	1
16. Cancer of all other sites	3	-
17. Diabetes	1	-
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	-
19. Heart disease	4	3
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	-
21. Bronchitis	-	-
22. Pneumonia	-	1
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
26. Appendicitis	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	-	-
28. Nephritis	1	-
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-
31. Premature birth	-	-
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries, and Infantile diseases	-	-
33. Suicide	-	-
34. Road traffic accidents	1	-
35. Other violent causes	-	-
36. All other causes	2	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING
1948.

DISEASE	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	Age un- known	Totals.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	6
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	4	9	11	-	-	2	-	28
Measles	-	4	5	-	1	-	-	-	10
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	8	14	16	2	-	4	-	46

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

General.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was 46 compared with 14 for 1947, 35 for 1946 and 46 in 1945.

The total number of each disease notified was as follows:-

Measles	10
Whooping Cough	28
Pneumonia	2
Scarlet Fever	6
	46

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

The following table shows the immunisation state of the children in the district on 31st. December, 1948.

	<u>Under School Age</u>	<u>School Age</u>	<u>Total</u>
Numbers immunised	203	292	495
Estimated Population	251	366	617
Percentage Immunised	80.87%	79.78%	80.22%

It is hoped that this high percentage of Immunisation will be maintained.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following are the number of cases on the register on 31st. December, 1947:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	11	8	19
Non-Pulmonary	3	5	8
Total	14	13	27

The following are the number of cases on the register on 31st. December, 1948:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	11	6	17
Non-Pulmonary	3	5	8
Total	14	11	25

No new cases of Tuberculosis were placed on the register during the year and no case was removed owing to death.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

DATE

Distinctive No. or Label	Total Solids in Solution	Ammonia	Chlorine in Chlor- ides	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Oxygen absorbed from Tannate Sulfate.	Hardness	Bacteriological Results.		
							Total Colony Forma- tion per ml.	Perman- ent colonies per ml.	Bacillus Coliform Present on agar at 37°C
No. 1 Cottage Hospital									

Physical Characters

No. 1 Both samples bright and clean on receipt and so remaining.

Remarks:- This is a water of great organic purity, showing no sign of any pollution of a dangerous character. I am of opinion that it is quite fit for drinking purposes. It does not appear to be naturally ferruginous, but to pick up iron oxide during distribution. The mains need to be regularly flushed. The good bacteriological quality of this water was reported on 23rd. August.

Factories Act, 1937

There are 24 premises registered under the above Act made up as follows:-

Garages...	9
Canning Factory...	1
Maltings...	1
Builders Yards...	5
Firewood Businesses...	-
Printing Works...	1
Bake houses...	3
Cinema...	1
Gas Works...	1
Waterworks...	1
Agricultural Engineers...	1

The factories have been regularly visited and informal notices served when necessary.

There were no cases referred by H.M. Inspector during the year.

HOUSING

New houses provided by the Council	-	24
New houses provided by private enterprise.	-	2

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C.W. ORR.

Medical Officer of Health.

